



Portland, OR

Brownfields Showcase Community

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

March 1998

Brownfields are abandoned, idled or underused industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived contamination. In May 1997, Vice President Gore announced a Brownfields National Partnership to bring together the resources of more than 15 Federal agencies to address local cleanup and reuse issues in a more coordinated manner. This multiagency partnership has pledged support to sixteen "Brownfields Showcase Communities"—models demonstrating the benefits of collaborative activity on brownfields. The designated Brownfields Showcase Communities are distributed across the country and vary by size, resources, and community type. A wide range of support will be leveraged, depending on the particular needs of each Showcase Community.

BACKGROUND

A federal partnership has selected the city of Portland, Oregon, as a National Brownfields Showcase Community. As Oregon's oldest and largest industrial, shipping, and commercial center, Portland has the highest concentration of brownfields in the state. Portland identified 484 contaminated sites and more than 600 additional sites with a suspected or threatened release. Portland has received an Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Assessment Pilot grant and is home to a federal Enterprise Community. Portland's Enterprise Community has a 30% unemployment rate for African American males, and a poverty rate exceeding 35% in most of the target zone. The city's high growth rate is expected to place pressure on urban growth boundaries and

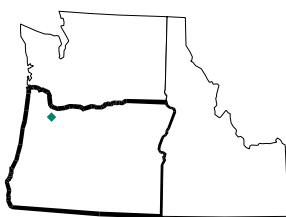
to threaten increased development of outlying greenfields.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Portland brownfields redevelopment is a multi-agency effort coordinated by the city's Office of Transportation and the Portland Development Commission. Portland's brownfields strategy is linked with state and regional long-term livability goals focusing on transportation, job creation, and growth management, and with city goals to provide affordable housing.

Brownfields reuse is an element of the regional Metro 2040 Growth Strategy and the city's urban growth boundary plans. Brownfields reuse also supports federal actions to remediate contaminated

Community Profile



Portland, Oregon

Portland has more than 1,000 brownfields properties dispersed throughout the city. Since 1994, public and private partnerships have cleaned up and recycled hundreds of acres of contaminated property and created thousands of jobs, while promoting brownfields redevelopment, pollution prevention, and greenspace protection.

sediments in the Willamette River. The city currently is undertaking a comprehensive effort to further refine site data and map brownfield sites in the area using all available information from state and federal regulatory agencies and other industrial and tax databases.

The city's commitment and success in brownfields redevelopment is demonstrated by several major revitalization projects, including a \$20 million science and industry museum (built on the site of a former power station) and a \$260 million sports arena (built on a former automotive and fueling center). Private investors have completed large revitalization efforts, and the city has initiated Brownfields Roundtables to address stakeholder needs. The Brownfields Management Team facilitates site prioritization and resource leveraging.

SHOWCASE COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The city's main objective is to create a national model of federal/local cooperation that shows how reclaiming urban brownfields can be an effective tool for creating jobs, enhancing environmental quality, and fostering a livable community. The city is focusing resources on showcase projects that demonstrate a high potential for restoration and reuse and are the most distressed communities in Portland—the North Macadam District, the South Waterfront Redevelopment Area, the River District, and the Central Streetcar Project.

Contacts

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For more information on the Brownfields Showcase Communities,
visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/showcase.htm>